

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00533 270734Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
SIL-01 LAB-04 /100 W
-----270754Z 007912 /11

R 270701Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4298
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0533

E.O. 16652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, LY, EG
SUBJ: LIBYAN PLANS TO EXPEL LIMITED NUMBER OF EGYPTIANS

REF: TRIPOLI 0523

1. EMBASSY CONSULAR LOCAL EMPLOYEE ON CONSULAR
BUSINESS AT SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MORNING
26 APRIL LEARNED FROM LTC. FATHI FATAYTA, FORMER
DIRECTOR OF LIBYAN PASSPORT OFFICE TRIPOLI AND
CURRENTLY UNDERSECRETARY OF INTERIOR, THAT A FIRM
DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO REMOVE ALL EGYPTIANS
WORKING FOR THE LIBYAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. THE
EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN BARRED FROM WORK AT MILITARY
INSTALLATIONS SINCE 21 APRIL AND THE LIBYAN PASSPORT
OFFICE HAS BEEN DEVOTING ALL ITS EFFORTS TO PROCESSING
THESE EGYPTIANS PASSPORTS FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE.
FATAYTA FURTHER SAID THAT AN ORDER HAD BEEN ISSUED IN
BENGHAZI ON 22 APRIL AND IN TRIPOLI ON 24 APRIL
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00533 270734Z

TO ALL LIBYAN SECRETARIATS, GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND
NATIONAL COMPANIES TO SUBMIT ASAP A COMPREHENSIVE LIST
OF ALLEGYPTIANS WORKING IN THEIR OFFICES. FATAYTA
COMMENTED THAT QADNEFI'S PLAN APPEARED TO BE TO EXPEL
SOME OF THESE EGYPTIANS AND THREATEN TO EXPEL MANY
MORE, WHICH THE LIBYANS ESTIMATED WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS
ECONOMIC IMPACT ON EGYPT. HE ESTIMATED THAT THIS

THREAT WOULD HAVE A MODERATING EFFECT ON EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT AND PERSUADE HIM TO RECONSIDER ANY RASH ACTS. FATAYTA SAID THAT OFFICIAL LIBYAN GOVERNMENT FIGURES OF EGYPTIANS WORKING AND RESIDING LEGALLY IN LIBYA WAS 320,000 PEOPLE. HE ADDED THAT THIS DID NOT INCLUDE THOSE WHO HAD ENTERED AND WERE WORKING ILLEGALLY IN LIBYA. FATAYTA DID NOT SAY HOW MANY EGYPTIANS HAD BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE MILITARY WHO WERE BEING EXPELLED OR HOW MANY ADDITIONAL EGYPTIANS MIGHT BE SENT HOME.

2. CONSULAR LOCAL ADDED THAT TWO CLOSE FRIENDS ARE IN MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ONE IN TRIPOLI AND ONE IN BENGHAZI. THE BENGHAZI CONTRACTOR HAD 400 EGYPTIANS WORKING IN MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, WHO HAVE BEEN LAID OFF AND WILL BE SENT HOME. THE TRIPOLI AREA CONTRACTOR HAD 1600 EGYPTIANS WORKING FOR HIM WHO WILL HAVE TO LEAVE ALSO. THE BENGHAZI CONTRACTOR IS LEAVING LIBYA SHORTLY ON A TRIP TO BULGARIA, YUGOSLAVIA AND CYPRUS IN SEARCH OF INEXPENSIVE MANPOWER TO TAKE THE EGYPTIANS PLACE.

3. COMMENT: THE NUMBER OF EGYPTIANS CURRENTLY SLATED FOR EXPULSION FROM LIBYA MAY EVENTUALLY REACH 5,000-10,000. IT STILL DOES NOT APPEAR, HOWEVER, THAT LIBYAN GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ANY FORM OF WHOLESALE EXPULSION OF EGYPTIANS AT THIS TIME.
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